The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 10, NO. 52. WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1921. WHOLE NO. 520.

DOES RIGHT DEPEND ON WHOSE OX IS GORED?

Forces that have been thundering to labor on law observance and contract obligations are silent when big business ignores law and breaks pledges that are intended to maintain industrial peace.

These buccaneers, booted and spurred, are today violating law, smashing wage agreements and repudiating solemn compacts with the government itself.

The first general move was made when the railroads asked the railway labor board to set aside certain labor provisions of the Cummins-Esch act, which the railroads so strongly urged. The purpose of the request was to have a clear field for wage reductions and not be hampered by such details as proving their case to the board or permit employes to be given a voice in the proceedings.

The railroads were told that they must obey the law. Then they began wholesale wage reductions—doing the very thing the railway labor board said they should not do without a hearing before the board.

To evade the law the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic railroad was placed in the hands of a receiver, on application of a bank. Federal Judge Sibley appointed the president of the road receiver and the first order issued by that official, with the sanction of the court, was to cut wages 50 per cent. A strike followed this flouting of the law, which the public is ignorant of and which may be used as a precedent by other roads and other courts.

The meat packers entered an agreement with their employes and the government to run until the war was ended and peace was officially declared. That was in 1919 but the packers refused to extend the agreement for one year after peace was declared. This was done and now the packers smash the agreement, destroy arbitration machinery that operated so successfully, reduce wages and lengthen hours.

While there is nothing new in the law-smashing, contract-breaking tactics of these modern Captain Kidds, the silence of those who are continually advising labor is surprising.

It seems to make a difference whose ox is gored when some people talk of law observance and anarchy.

Has big business sufficient "pull" that certain newspapers overlook its anarchy?

The organized workers believe in orderly procedure and they must maintain this policy.

The chaos that big business favors cannot justify workers in abandoning methods that are supported by the experience of man.

Temporary gains, through treachery and deceit, are futile before the long, steady pull of intelligence, order and a cool head.

High Court Shatters Popular Law Theories

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—In a remarkable decision that upholds the public welfare against the rights of property, the court of appeals, the highest judicial tribunal in this state, sustained emergency housing laws passed by the New York legislature.

The decision jars popular theories, such as the claim that legislation must have a uniform application and contracts are as unyielding as the law of gravitation.

One clause of the decision selected for regulation," said the court, "besides class consideration, may be made; one class of tenants has protection because all who seek homes cannot be provided with them. Emergency and not. Those who have out homes or rent their own property, or rentals, or unable to pay any rentals whatever, have been left to the free operation of law."

In answering the claim that the law impaired the liberty of contract the court said:

An historical justification of the doctrine of contract between landlord and tenant is not a demonstration that the system must survive every emergency. Private relations have ceased to be adapted to the demand for the present day. The greatest public necessity is often required to be met."

The following statement by the court indicates the power of public opinion, as expressed in legislation by those who would gain legislation:

"The energies of most changing conditions through new legislation constantly goes on. The fundamental question is whether society is prepared for the change. The law of each age is ultimately what that age thinks should be in law.

"What is arbitrary and what is beneficial depends upon the common sense applied to a concrete set of facts. To uphold private contracts and to annul them for other considerations is a matter of high public concern, involving the power to make wide latitude in doing what seems in accordance with sound judgment for the common good."

Bringing about a great good to a large class of citizens, even at some sacrifice of property rights.

The features of the laws are:

Where a tenant pays a fair and reasonable rent summary proceedings may not be brought for his dispossession. The landlord may not be requires the property for his own immediate use. The tenant is always to be objectionable, or the building is to be demolished or the building is to be converted to other purposes.

Landlords are deprived of the old common law right of election proceedings to dispossess upon any except the same conditions.

The question of what is a fair and reasonable rent for the purpose of public instruction in October, 1920, is a serious one, but the joint official statesmanship of this state.

"Its revelations are appalling. The average rent paid by tenants shows that the average term for rental covering any dwelling today is only 164 days, and that the term in 10 days less than it was 10 years ago. Only 19 per cent of the total school population is enrolled in the public schools; only 64 per cent of such enrollment is in actual attendance and 24 per cent attends irregularly. Only 6 per cent of the school enrollment in Tennessee is in the high school, whereas the average in the whole United States is 9.3 per cent. It is shown that during the late war the profits of the 2,900 men drafted in one of the leading counties in the state had their attendance lowered only in the grade. It is further shown that the average county pays only 20 per cent of the drafted men could read and write."

OIL UNION STOPS CUT.

Bakersfield, Cal., March 19.—"In every instance where employes of Standard Oil employes have had their wages cut," says the California Oil Worker, "they have called attention to the unity between oil workers in the state.

"In every district where that company operates, with the exception of California, it has established its 'industrial relations plan,' which consists of committees of its own employes who are supposed to have a voice in what their hours, wages and working conditions shall be.

"Standard Oil has never had the gall to install its 'industrial relations plan' in California because there the oil workers are organized and it is through the organization that the wage scale is set for the industry, not through the Standard Oil company.

"In California, the Standard, as elsewhere, tries to make its employes believe that any benefits they receive is due to the benevolence of the company itself, as in the notice that every time the Oil Workers' union of California succeeded a wage increase the Standard met it, and we also notice very characteristically that these same Fuel and Oil employes in California, who owe all their wage increases to the Oil Workers' union, do not know the fact that their wages have not been raised a cent that any organization of the members of which are wondering when the Standard's employes will quit acting foolish and get in the union."

PLEADS FOR TEACHERS.

Nashville, Tenn., March 19.—In a message to the state legislature, Governor Taylor urges action to better the public school teachers, especially those in rural communities. He says that the bulletin recently issued by the state department of public instruction in October, 1920, is a serious indictment of the educational statesmanship of this state.

"Its revelations are appalling. Among other things, the report shows that the average term for rural elementary schools today is only 164 days, and that the term in 10 days less than it was 10 years ago. Only 19 per cent of the total school population is enrolled in the public schools; only 64 per cent of such enrollment is in actual attendance and 24 per cent attends irregularly. Only 6 per cent of the school enrollment in Tennessee is in the high school, whereas the average in the whole United States is 9.3 per cent. It is shown that during the late war the profits of the 2,900 men drafted in one of the leading counties in the state had their attendance lowered only in the grade. It is further shown that the average county pays only 20 per cent of the drafted men could read and write."

BASIC WAGE CRITICISED.

Washington, March 19.—The department of commerce publishes a report by Trade Commissioner Fenn, located in Australia, on the opposition of a basic wage in that country. Mr. Fenn's report summarizes Mr. Ferris's report as follows:

"Despite the fact that the payment of the new basic wage and the system of child endowment would seem to be conferring benefits more than $4,500,000 a year, it has failed to satisfy the service, and demonstrations will prevail in all departments." Meetings of protest have been held by government employes in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and elsewhere.

"The employers claim it falls short of the admittedly minimum amount that will permit of a reasonable standard or comfort, that the compromise basic wage of £4 was discarded last year by 43 states, and that the equitable principle of equal pay for equal work, irrespective of the ability of employers."

STATES FIGHT RAIL LAW.

Washington, March 19.—The Commercial Club of Atlanta, Ga., is protesting attacked in the United States circuit court by 43 states, which claim that the law infringes on the right of states to regulate rates now exercised by the interstate commerce commission. Should the states win, all the increased state rates put into effect would be nullified and the state railroad commissions would regain their former jurisdictions. The suit is considered most important.

DRESSMAKERS STRIKE.

New York, March 19.—More than 8,000 children's dress and petticoat makers struck today, demanding the closed shop, a 44-hour week and a higher intellectual and moral being."

KILL ANTI-STRIKE LAW.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 19.—The house or representatives has defeated the Kane anti-strike bill. In defending the bill the author made the point clear, by the brand of "statement," that officials of the Iowa state federation of labor "do not represent the labor movement."

ANTI-UNION HISTORY BELONGS TO ANCIENT ROME

New York, March 19.—Anti-unionists hark back to the time of ancient Rome, when the few believed they were ordained by the gods to rule the many, declared Professor Furuseth in a debate on "The Open Shop" with Walter Merritt, attorney for anti-trade union organizations.

"Strictly speaking," said Furuseth, "there is no such critter in our industrial jungle."

The seaman's executive declared that "the debate on the term standing by itself is futile," and he treated it as part of a policy which, he may not be aware, is the utterance of evolution based upon principles fundamentally Christian and American."

The unionist traced the workers' historic fight for equality from the Roman period down to the present time, and developed the point that man's first struggle was on the religious field, then on the political field and now on the industrial field.

"Substantially," he said, "there was in the Roman period but two kinds of men. The master—the heaven born—who was sent from the gods for power, to teach and to pray. To the master class—the heaven born—the worker was about the same as the domestic animals are to us. And so, at about the time of the Nazarene there was a roughly speaking, about 7 per cent of free men—men sent from the gods—and about 93 per cent slaves, or at best freed men. Into this society—autocracy in religion, autocratic in the state and autocratic in industry—a new idea, union equality and brotherhood of all who had the shape of man was unthinkable, came the Nazarene with his teachings.

"The human family was taught to look upon itself as one brotherhood, being equal to each other, neither being equal right to what God had given, as being equally free, and being equally responsible to their God and to each other for their conduct and their actions.

"Such a concept was in fundamental opposition to the then standing. It was an attack upon the then existing society in all its aspects.

"It took centuries of fight and struggle, carried on by organizations based upon religious fervor, finally to compel an unwilling world to give acceptance on the religious plane to the principle of human brotherhood. When finally adopted—about 1648—we began to think and to ask why not in the state? And there began a struggle to extend the Christian principle to the political field, and the struggle was carried on by political organizations based upon political discontent. As part of this struggle we find the American and the democratic animals are to us. And so, at about the time of the Nazarene there was, roughly speaking, about 7 per cent of free

MACHINISTS TO ADOPT LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Washington, March 19.—The group insurance plan, submitted to the referendum by officers of the International Association of Machinists, is to be put into effect, if approved, according to reports by these officials. Under the plan, which is backed by the workers, the usual 30 days to hold a referendum has been extended to 60 days, and the ballot will close the last day of April.

The plan provides to insure every member of the association—male and female—regardless of age or physical condition and without medical examination whatsoever. Insurance will be in the sum of $500 on each member, at a contribution of 50 cents per month, or $6 a year, to each member so insured. The amount of insurance carried on the 80,000 policies of $250 each year until a maximum of $1,000 is reached. The fact that their wages have not been increased is said to be responsible for the members of which are wondering when the Standard's employes will quit acting foolish and get in the union."

JURY BREAKS PROMISE; MOONEY PROBE BLOCKED

San Francisco, March 19.—The grand jury has blocked a probe of the Mooney case in the face of a promise of immunity to John Mc-Donald, who swears he was compelled to testify that he committed perjury in the Mooney and Billings trials.

If he testified before the grand jury McDonald could be tried for perjury and sentenced to jail for three years. It is declared that the grand jury was determined to make the probe a farce and then convict the case was confessed to were falsely at the trials. To check this move McDonald asked for immunity from prosecution. This was agreed to, but later withdrawn.

The district attorney promised he would not prosecute McDonald, it is said McDonald would be sent to jail on its word. It wasn't hard to see what was happening. It is fair to say this much: the Mooney cases are going to be cleared up some time, and when they are cleared up the men who have been responsible will be ready to tell what I know about them.

While the probe has been delayed, substantial gains have been made in the fight for labor's rights. Witnesses-up now face the charge that another of their original witnesses committed perjury. On top of this, Richard W. Smith, former police lieutenant, who saw the Mooneys on the roof of a building at the time of the explosion, is the scene of the explosion that the theory of the prosecution is impossible. Smith has repudiated the alibi claim of the Mooneys.

It is openly charged that the influence behind the delay are the same that have made California's criminal system a mockery in the eyes of the world.

UNMASK ANTI-UNIONISTS.

Sacramento, Cal., March 19.—In urging a bill that would force big business to pay its share of taxes Senator Shaw said that the real anti-union better America federation, which opposed the bill, is "Many worthy business men have joined this organization in the belief that it was what its name implied, which has since been supplanted by the Anti-American Industries federation proclaimed itself against the unionization of business and declared that the principles of Americanism advancement that has been accomplished in California during the last 10 years, and this was betrayed the real purpose of these men in Los Angeles who are opposed to themselves to speak for this organization. These gentlemen are simply out for reactionary type, representative of crooked big business, and ready to sacrifice the welfare of the people the big special interests in so primitive a form of special privilege as evasion of just taxes."

BEGIN TO EXPLAIN.

New York, March 19.—Organized labor's continuous bombardment of the anti-union shop is bearing fruit in the form of explanations from their "open shop" term has lost its charm.

The Merchants' association of this city gives a lengthy explanation of what the term means, declaring that "some employers" are establishing non-union shop conditions and discriminating against union labor.

The business men take the usual position of blaming labor for restricting production, but the fact remains that the stores are filled to overflowing with commodities awaiting purchase and millions of workers are unemployed.

REACTION IN NEBRASKA.

Lincoln, Neb., March 19.—Trade unionists are up in arms against open and anti-picketing legislation, being introduced in the state. It is proposed to create an industrial court, which would take full charge of working conditions and also fix the wage any earner who objects to the court's decision, or who imagines he is better qualified to pass judgment on conditions he must work under.

The anti-picketing bill is strike-breaking legislation.

WON'T ACCEPT AWARD.

Detroit, Mich., March 19.—Printers employed in three commercial shops in this city have refused to accept a strike because of the bosses' refusal to accept an arbitration award. These firms advertised a "union" non-unionism and took this occasion to show their colors.

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

El Dorado, Ark., March 18.—Switchmen at this place have organized and are chartered by the Switchmen's Union of North America.

FOUR L'S IS DONE.

Seattle, March 19.—The loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen has done, declares Harry Call, the new secretary of the International Union of Timber Workers, affiliated with the A. F. of L. The legion was a company "union," established during the war.

"In the timber industry," said Call, "as in other fields, it has been the policy of the employers that is to be effective must be an organized employers' organization, not the mass formation of the I. W. W. or the one big union, but an organization of the entire industry. This can and is being done.

"The International Union of Timber Workers is an industrial form of organization. It is not a conference branches under one international charter, covering all workers in the industry.

"Wage reductions have not solved the problem of industrial unrest. Direct action and sabotage have not and will not solve the problem. Neither is it a time for making excuses or passing the buck. It is a time for plain, honest, constructive thought and action. Back of the real principles of collective bargaining, those who want independence restored must also be prepared to give confidence.

"Right here in this country, and the timber industry contributes its share, there is a great lack of democracy and a square deal in industry, that they continually howl over politicians, when, as a matter of fact, their ignorance and uselessness in establishing either."

"UNWARRANTED" STRIKES.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 19.—A bill to prohibit "unwarranted industrial disputes" has been introduced in both branches of the state legislature. The provisions of these introduced in other states.

The "unwarranted industrial warfare" is defined to mean, among other things, a strike before the employer has had time to confer with them, or to consider the demands. Sympathetic strikes are also "unwarranted," as is a strike at a plant where 80 per cent of the employes are at work. Strikes at plants where the plant employes 1,000 workers, if 127 strike such a strike is unlawful.

The state, any firm or person who is injured or who believes he will be injured may ask for an injunction and may rush to an injunction judge for relief.

From the standpoint of the antiunionist this bill is an improvement over the Kansas idea, as all court stuff is eliminated, and strikers are not thrown into jail. Instead of a private handcuff legislation, but are punished by an injunction judge for contempt of court when they violate an order not to strike. When the public writes the law the strikers are "attacking our courts, the nation's bulwark."

NO STRIKE PANACEA.

Albany, N. Y., March 19.—"There is no panacea for industrial disputes," said Frank P. Walsh, chief mediator of the state bureau of labor and industrial arbitration. He includes the Kansas industrial court law when he says:

"The best way to industrial settlements is not through any one of these plans. All of the various schemes set out by Walsh are a blanket plan for all of industry, and are intended to bring settlements of through each industry working out its particular problems, first, local and then, if necessary, by an industrial scale."

Walsh's study and diffusion of industrial relations information should reduce the amount of industrial disputes and increase the regularity of industry. Upon all such efforts of research and education the way to industrial peace would seem to lie most clearly.

SAW DETECTIVE KILLED.

Williamson, W. Va., March 19.—Isaac Brewer, the state's star witness in the Matt Hatfield trial, was charged by Jim Webb with killing Albert Felts, Baldwin-Felts detective, in a fight at Matewan.

"I saw Isaac Brewer shoot Albert Felts," Webb declared positively. "He was only a short distance away. He shot him in the head."

Brewer was among the accused at the beginning of the trial, but dropped out of evidence. He is related to two attorneys for the prosecution.

HAD TO PAY FOR LIBEL.

Portland, Ore., March 19.—Last year Frye & company, meat dealers, charged in the public press that their striking employees were agents of the bolshevists, and were attempting to start a revolution. The workers sued for $10,000 damages and the company has announced that it libeled these workers by making a rash settlement.

RESISTS WAGE CUT.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 19.—Painters here in this city attempted to cut wages of their iron molders and now they have a strike on their hands.

CHURCH MEN PROTEST WAGES BEING LOWERED

Washington, March 19.—Wage reductions are frequently against justice, says the national Catholic welfare council, in a statement which declares that the cost of living has declined but little in the last few months.

"The old rate of wages, in the case of the majority of the men at work on low wages, was not enough to give a decent family living. Between January, 1919, and December, 1920, there was even a slight increase in the cost of living. Food had declined a great deal, having gone back to the prices prevailing during the last summer of the war. Clothing stood at the prices of the fall of 1919. But fuel and light and furniture, miscellaneous expenses, and especially rent, had advanced so much as to raise the whole cost of living to stand about the same as a year earlier, and much higher than in the days of the war.

"Wage reductions of 10 and 20 per cent have been put into effect. The wages of men some times going as low as 20 cents an hour. Thirty cents an hour is equal to about 15 cents an hour in 1914 money and if the hours of work a day have been shortened or the concern is on short time, the wage rate, as far as living conditions are concerned, is much lower."

The statement includes this portion of the bishops' program of social reconstruction, issued on the first Lincoln's birthday after the armistice:

"Given if the prices of goods should fall to the level on which they were in 1915—something that cannot be hoped for within the years—the average present rates of wages would not exceed the equivalent of the scale prevailing in the case of the vast majority.

"Even if the great majority of workers were now in receipt of more than living wages, there is no justification for reducing them. They should be lowered. After all, a living wage is not necessarily the full measure of justice."

LOBBIES ARE LISTED.

Washington, March 19.—"A new and powerful assistant government has been installed in Washington," says C. M. Barrett, president of the Farmers' union and chairman of the national board of farm organizations, in which he includes the 48 lists the business organizations that maintain powerful lobbies in the national capital.

The list is headed by the United States Chamber of Commerce, which has 99 rooms as headquarters in this city; the railroads, the meat packers, the national association of manufacturers and others. Mr. Barrett says the unions have lobbyists, but he calls attention to their existence. He refers to the claim that the United States Chamber of commerce is not attempting to influence legislation, and says of this is true, "some persons are asking why a more control city was not included in its headquarters."

Mr. Barrett says the national associations of manufacturers is one of the most virile and commercial organizations which is assisting the United States Chamber in its work to people an enlightened administration.

"Of course," he concludes, "it is improper for a foreign diplomat to interfere with American legislative, executive or executive action. But a war has been found to accomplish that which many years of agitation had been created under the names of Americanization and the like. These have no definite or tangible connection with any accredited diplomat, but they represent the power which the diplomat represents is the beneficiary of their activities."

INDIANA WORKERS WIN.

Indianapolis, March 19.—With the appointment of the state legislature, anti-union forces were routed in every instance but one, the repeal of the railroad full crew law.

There were over a score of anti-labor bills introduced, and included the open shop measure in the notorious Jarz bill, measures to weaken the workmen's compensation law, a bill to provide for suing trade unions, a garnishee bill, and other vicious proposals. The repeal of the full crew court bill did not appear.

Labor defeated every one of these bills. This city is the center of much anti-trade union activity, but the failure of this activity, but the failure of this activity to get a single measure through the legislature.

Another important piece of social legislation passed was the child welfare bill, which provides that no child under 16 years can be employed in industry in this state and then only if he or she has completed at least the eighth grade in an elementary school.

WON'T DISCUSS WAGE CUTS.

Knoxville, Tenn., March 19.—In a message to affiliates of district No. 19, United Mine Workers, President Keller says:

"All local unions are hereby officially notified that under no circumstances should they enter into any negotiations with any coal operator or his agent for the purpose of considering a reduction of wages.

At a conference with coal owners presided Keller gave notice that the present agreement would be enforced. The coal owners were willing to sign a new agreement but they said the contract would be observed.

ESCH GETS JOB.

Washington, March 19.—Former Congressman Esch, who fell before the Plumb plan partisans in political policy last fall, has been appointed a member of the interstate commerce commission by President Harding. The salary is $10,000 a year. Esch served as a member of the house for 22 years. He is a lawyer and was in La Crosse, Wis. He is credited with being joint author of the Cummins-Esch railroad act.

SEA FARERS UNITE.

Portland, Ore., March 19.—A seafarers' council has been formed in this city. It is composed of affiliates of the international unions of seamen, marine engineers and masters, mates and pilots. The local council is the result of a unity perfected by these internationals.

TAILORS WIN UNION SHOP.

Duluth, Minn., March 19.—Striking journeymen tailors have returned to work on the union shop basis.

DIRECT LEGISLATION STRANGLED BY COURT

Olympia, Wash., March 18.—The supreme court of this state has made a noose by which direct legislation can be strangled. This has been accomplished by upholding the emergency clause that the legislature attached to the civil service initiation code. This means that the law takes effect on its passage, instead of being held the required length of time that the people may decide if they will demand a referendum.

The civil administration code was jammed through the legislature, despite protests of organized workers and citizens, who objected to legislation that would empower one man, appointed by the governor, to enforce labor and other special laws. The emergency clause, inserted for use only when the people's health is involved, was attached to the act. The supreme court was asked to set this clause aside, but refused.

Officials of the state federation of labor declare that the decision can hereafter attach the emergency clause to any act they fear the people will demand a referendum on.

"It has been freely acknowledged by the framers of the initiative," the unionists say, "that such a clause could not be used in legislation, but now that the supreme court has placed its seal of approval on the clause it will be the law of its continuance in a more flagrant manner than was exhibited in the most valued provision of our state constitution is dead—strangled legislation, as pronounced heartily dead by the highest tribunal of justice in our state."

BANKERS ARE SHIRKERS.

Philadelphia, March 19.—"You are shirking your duties and responsibilities if you neglect to organize," said C. A. Barrett, president of the Farmers' union and chairman of the national board of farm organizations, in which he includes the 48 lists the business organizations that maintain powerful lobbies in the national capital.

"You bankers have fallen down miserably in your control of financial institutions. Your profits last year were the largest in history. The government made the bankers in this movement was that you were organized. You failed to get to the root of us, non-financial interests. In general public of your capital stock, up to subscribe for the billion dollars or more you were asked to raise. Nothing about when you yourselves have failed to organize while the call came to acting and not merely talking.

"There still is time for you to save your faces by making good. But you must do more than organize, but your deeds will constitute your answer."

COMPANY "UNION" FAILS.

Albany, N. Y., March 19.—In discussing the so-called "federal" plan of labor representation, which is called to the power of the management, by Nellie Swartz, chief of the bureau of women in industry, state industrial commission.

Under this plan of company "union," in one New York department store, the house of representatives, or shop committee, elected by the employes, the senate is composed of managers and foremen, and the cabinet is composed of representatives of the management. If the cabinet vetoes any measure it can be passed by the two houses. This system is declared by the industrial democracy" by some writers, but Miss Swartz says:

"The scheme really aims to establish democracy within the store, it falls under the 'federal' plan because it is under the control of the mines the policy is the chairman—that is, the management."

LABOR LAW UPSET.

Albany, N. Y., March 19.—Governor Miller has signed the Knight-Neary bill which abolishes the state industrial commission and empowers the governor to appoint a single commission. Sweeping powers will be given to the new industrial commissioner. Organized labor protested against this legislation which years of effort by the commission that was created in 1915. Advocates of the new legislation declare economy.

The sincerity of this claim is shown in the statement that the salaries of the commissioner and his deputy and three board members will total $23,000, while the salaries of the five members of the commission as now constituted is $30,000.

VETO "LOYALTY" OATH.

Helena, Mont., March 19.—Governor Stewart has vetoed an act requiring all Montana teachers, whether in the state university or public schools, to take an oath proclaiming their loyalty to the state and federal constitutions and laws enacted thereunder.

Governor Dixon said the constitution provided for one oath and no other for all state officials and that the legislature was not to impose additional oaths in the state. Such a bill, he declared, would open the door for all sorts of fanatical and political tests.

RESTAURANTS PROFITEER.

Chicago, March 19.—Railroad station restaurants in this city are charging profiteering prices, and their gross profits range from 90 to 183 per cent according to investigation by chairman of the city council cost-of-living committee. The lowest net profit made by restaurants is 50 per cent, he said. Gross profits on other items are:

Steak, 143 to 232 per cent; pie, 150 per cent; cake sandwich, 250 per cent; pork chops, 64 to 264 per cent; coffee, 400 per cent; cereals, average, 233 per cent.

WARRING ON UNION.

New Orleans, March 19.—Private detective agencies are conducting a guerrilla warfare on the union of watchmen in this city.

WOMEN ARE COERCED.

Davenport, Iowa, March 19.—It is charged that local business men are forcing their employe workers to sign protests against a nine-hour bill, now pending in the state legislature.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Galveston, Texas, March 19.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued the call for the annual convention to be held here beginning May 24.